Leicester, Mass^tts Nov. 16/59.

Dear friend Webb —

I enclose a ~~slip~~ part of a note I received yesterday from Oliver Johnson; there can be no objection to its appearance in the 'Advocate', if you like it, but it will probably be too late for the Dec^r. number, and will be too old for January — at any rate you will be interested to see what he says of the effect of the Harper's Ferry affair upon the Elections, especially in the State of New York, where the Democrats strained every nerve to overthrow the Republican ascendancy, & made the Harper's ferry business their main stalking-horse. — Will you forward the enclosed to Wm. P. Powell? A late letter from him, containing his address in Liverpool, is not now by me; but I suppose you can easily furnish it, which please add to the name.

We shall soon be looking to hear of Richard's safe arrival home, and hope he will appear in good health, and find his brother in improved health, and be pleased with your new county home. — We continue to have pleasant accounts from my son Edward, who was in good health at Singapore, Sept. 7^th — but is, before this time, I presume, at Hong Kong. Business in the E. Indies seems to be overdone, & extremely dull; and I begin to abandon the expectation that he can do anything out there.

What you write of our good Cousin, S. J. M., gratifies and rejoices us not a little. I felt as sure as I well could be, of anything of the kind, that he would be greatly liked by our friends in your county, and I felt very desirous indeed that they should have a fair opportunity to get acquainted with him — to see him privately and socially, as well as to hear him in public; and I now feel very happy in the thought that so many opportunities, in

both sorts, were afforded to him, and that he was able to meet so many friends, in behalf of our good cause. I cannot but believe that he has done a good work, in removing prejudices in several quarters, and in stirring up some interest where hitherto there has been none; and, to our old & true friends, who needed no conversion, he will have brought some comfort and strengthening, I hope. He appears to have been quite surprised and taken aback at the extent to which he found a ~~sort of~~ decided pro-slavery sympathy prevailing in England, - shown by asserting that the W.I. Emancipation has proved a failure, and by readiness to extenuate the errors of slaveholding, &c. &c. &c. In the 3 days he stopped with us, in Boston, he spoke of it again and again, and with evident trouble of mind. His social and anti-slavery experiences in G. B. & Ire. to have been most delightful to him, and to have filled his mind with a store of memories which will forever be a satisfaction & pleasure. He spoke particularly of his visits at Dublin - at Hafod (in Wales) with Mary Estlin, at Mr. Wicksteed's - at Bristol, at M.E.'s, and other places - at Glasgow - at Leeds - and with the Unitarians in London, & especially at Hackney, where he hopes he did an effective work. Pray watch these Unitarians in & about London - Aspland, Madge, &c. &c. - they are of the most conservative sort. He was pleased with Madge, but I haven't (as I told Mr. May) the least faith in his lifting a finger. I don't know much of Aspland, but think better of him than I do of Madge. He saw many more - Sadler, ~~Hare~~ & others whose names I forget. —— Mr. May had a very rough passage home - 9 days of constant gales, pitching and tumbling - and did not arrive in Boston until Saturday Nov. 5 - 2 weeks. I went to the Ship to meet him, - one of my brothers being on the ground before me. He was looking a little roughened by the hard passage, but appeared quite as well as we expected to find him, and in fine spirits. He went directly to my father's house,

and kept pretty quietly there thro' the day — in the evening interesting us all very much by his details of his journey. He fell into such laughing and fun, as he told us of the religious forces at Rome, in which he saw the Pope taking part, that we had quite a merry time of it. And yet, there is nothing so serious as those very things. What a mockery of the humility, the benevolence, the good-will, which the Gospel inculcates! What an open insult to Christ it is! Once a year the Pope exhibits these qualities in a heartless, ostentatious way, — as a show, — and there ends the Christian Humility and Charity for that year. All else is a flagrant violation and contempt of them. — How sickening it is to find so little progress in one's lifetime! — i.e. so little, when compared with the vast necessities all about us, with the palpable ignorance, and wrong, prevailing, and even with the efforts (poor & feeble as they are) put forth to remedy, — Peace grows slowly, and yet it does grow, and Progress is made. —

The next morning, Mr. M. went to hear Rev. James F. Clarke preach, and was much interested in hearing a discourse on the John Brown invasion at Harper's Ferry, Va. — In the evening, a large company of his relatives and of his anti-slavery friends met at my father's house, to welcome him back. He spent an hour and more in recounting to them some of the principal features of his tour. Garrison, J. F. Clarke, of Kentucky, Fee, Francis Jackson, C. L. Whipple, John A. Andrew, Rev. John G. Fee, and among them were present, and took part in a brisk conversation which followed, chiefly on Slavery & things growing therefrom.

The next morning Mr. May met the Anti-Slavery Committee at Mr Garrison's house, and to them opened more fully the whole ~~matter~~ question of Anti-slavery, as it appeared to him to stand in Europe, & especially in England. — The next morning he left early for home. We enjoyed his brief stay exceedingly, and he must have been gratified at the earnest and warm greeting he rec'd. We all feel very grateful, on his behalf, for the very many attentions and kindnesses he experienced at the hands of all our friends in your land.

I am truly sorry that my accounts are "a
mystery" to you. I know not why they should be so. The
speak for themselves. I credit to you whatever you pay m
(and get all I can for it, if it is a bill of exchange), and what
is paid me, any. acct. That, I am sure, you don't doubt.
the other hand, I charge to you whatever I pay out for you; tha
is the whole of it, and the balance shows my debt to you, or you
to me. If you detect any mistake of any sort, - or any omis
or any misapprehension of any item, - I shall be very thankfu
to have it pointed out, & to correct it. The reason that the la
balance was so much against you, was, that I had paid two
sets of dues to the Standard & Liberator, from your account, this
year, i.e. one early in the year, and another recently, (according
your accts. furnished,) and had but one remittance from you fo
the payments - which covered 2 years, in some instances. You s
the remittance with the last, and I thought had forgotten
account; you appeared to have deducted the considerable bal
your favor in my hands a year ago, without remembering that
payments in the early part of the year were made out of it.
Have you made me any remittance, or is there anything of y
that you find I have omitted to credit? I know of nothing, but
will include it, if you ~~shall~~ find anything of the sort, of course.

All missing & needed 'Advocates' have now come. As I have
been absent from Boston, 4 or 5 days, I know not if the Nov. no. has com
I am preparing to close my house for a few months - 5 mos. at least, -
move to Boston for the winter.

What a lame defence Chapin made to the Bristol & Clifton
Committee for shutting off Miss Remond from the Antislavery platf
August 1st! 'Tis positively worse than none. 'Tis the fact, doubtle
They did an injustice, & swerved from a principle, to get Lord
Brougham's countenance! No such Emancipation Committees c
help our cause, for that sort of action forfeits respect, & self-respe

F. Douglass leaves home by a circuitous route. He is implicated in the
Harper's Ferry business, and took refuge in Canada. We all agree in
you - to give him a wide berth, & take no notice of him. He is wholl
selfish, and unworthy of our trust for a moment.

I add a note for Mr. Channing - which please post.

Affly Yours. Sam'l. May Jr.